

**What is a pharmacy technician?**

Effective June 1, 2004, Texas State Board of Pharmacy (TSBP) defines pharmacy technicians as individuals whose responsibility in a pharmacy is to provide technical services that do not require professional judgment regarding preparing and distributing drugs and who work under the direct supervision of and are responsible to a pharmacist. This includes registered pharmacy technicians and pharmacy technician trainees.

**What is a technician trainee?**

A technician trainee is not registered as a pharmacy technician by the board and is either participating in a pharmacy's technician training program for no more than one year; or is currently enrolled in a training program accredited by the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists or a health science technology education program in a Texas high school that is accredited by the Texas Education Agency.

**What is required in order to register with TSBP?**

In order to register, the individual must be certified. Currently, TSBP recognizes certification obtained by taking and passing a national exam given by the Pharmacy Technician Certification Board (PTCB). Information concerning the PTCB exam may be obtained on the Internet at [www.ptcb.org](http://www.ptcb.org) or by telephone at (202) 429-7576 or (800) 363-8012.

The registration process is a two-step online process. Step-1 requires the completion of a web-based application. Once an application is received, it takes approximately 4 weeks to approve. The approval process includes verification of criminal history and PTCB certification information. Step-2 requires the payment of a fee, which is done using either credit card or checking account information at [www.texasonline.com](http://www.texasonline.com). Individuals who do not have a checking account or a credit card should contact [tech@tsbp.state.tx.us](mailto:tech@tsbp.state.tx.us) for further instructions.

Please read detailed application instructions at [www.tsbp.state.tx.us/techregintro.htm](http://www.tsbp.state.tx.us/techregintro.htm) for details about this process.

**Are pharmacy technicians required to attend a special training course or obtain a formal education?**

Individuals need to gain some training before attempting the PTCB exam. This may be accomplished through a technician-training course, but a course is not required. Training can be completed on-the-job while working as a technician trainee. TSBP rules allow an individual to be designated as a technician trainee for up to one year while preparing for and taking the PTCB exam. Please review training rules outlined in §297.6. The rules are available online at <http://www.tsbp.state.tx.us/Pharmacytechs.htm>.

**Can a pharmacy technician register if they have a conviction for a drug related charge?**

According to the Texas Pharmacy Act, a conviction for a misdemeanor involving moral turpitude or a felony is grounds for the Board to refuse to issue a Pharmacy Technician registration. Additionally, a violation of the Texas Controlled Substances Act or Dangerous Drug Act is also grounds for refusal. A criminal history is not an absolute bar to receiving a registration, but each case will be evaluated individually based on the nature and seriousness of the crime, length of time since the conviction, past criminal history, rehabilitation of the applicant, and other relevant facts. TSBP will notify applicants if any problems are encountered. More information on grounds for refusal to issue a pharmacy technician registration may be reviewed at the following link:

<http://www.capitol.state.tx.us/statutes/docs/OC/content/htm/oc.003.00.000568.00.htm> - 568.003.00

**Will a registered pharmacy technician have more responsibility?**

The duties of a technician have not changed. Please refer to the chart at the end of this document for information on duties that can be performed by pharmacy technicians.

**Are pharmacy technicians required to maintain their PTCB certification and registration?**

The rules require pharmacy technicians to have current certification in order to complete the initial registration. Once a technician is registered with TSBP, they may choose whether or not to maintain their PTCB certification. One advantage of maintaining their PTCB certification is that they will not be subject to CE audits by TSBP. Please note that PTCB also conducts random CE audits of certified pharmacy technicians.

**When will a pharmacy technician registration expire?**

Renewal dates will be based on the technician's birth month and will expire on the last day of the month in which they were born. As technicians register, the year of expiration will be staggered, which means some will expire during the first year following initial registration while others will expire during the second year from initial registration. After the "stagger in" period, registrations will renew biennially (every two years). This also means fee will vary for each individual until after the first renewal period.

**Are pharmacy technicians required to notify TSBP of change in name, address or employment?**

Yes. Technicians are required by rule to notify TSBP of any name, address or place of employment changes (within 10 days of a change). Technicians may make changes to their **address** and **place of employment** online at [www.tsbp.state.tx.us/Pharmacytechs.htm](http://www.tsbp.state.tx.us/Pharmacytechs.htm). All other corrections must be sent to

TSBP in writing. Written changes may be emailed to [tech@tsbp.state.tx.us](mailto:tech@tsbp.state.tx.us) or faxed to (512) 305-8075 attention: Technician Registration Specialist.

**Are registered pharmacy technicians required to obtain continuing education (CE)?**

YES. TSBP rules require 20 hours of CE be obtained during the renewal period. The TSBP requirements are the same as those required by the Pharmacy Technician Certification Board. Pharmacy technicians who are certified by PTCB and maintain this certification will meet continuing education requirements of TSBP and are not subject to audit by the Board.

**Where should pharmacy technicians send CE hours?**

Do not send CE hours to TSBP. Pharmacy technicians must maintain proof of CE for three years from the date of reporting the hours on a renewal application.

TSBP will conduct random audits. If you are subject to an audit, you will be instructed to submit proof. (Please note that PTCB CE requirements are separate from the TSBP requirements.)

**WHO MAY PERFORM THE FOLLOWING DUTIES**

Duties may be performed only after in-store training

Pharmacy Technician Duties	Registered Technician	Technician Trainee*
Initiate and receive refill authorization requests	YES	YES
Enter prescription data into a data processing system	YES	YES
Take a stock bottle from the shelf for a prescription	YES	YES
Prepare and package drug orders (i.e., count tablets/capsules, measure liquids and place them in the container)	YES	YES
Affix label to the prescription container	YES	NO
Reconstitute medications	YES	YES
Prepackage and label prepackaged drugs	YES	YES
Load bulk unlabeled drugs into an automated dispensing system	YES	YES
Compound non-sterile prescriptions	YES	YES
Compound sterile pharmaceuticals (after completing required training)	YES	YES

\*This includes individuals who have obtained certification through PTCB, but have worked less than one year in a Texas Pharmacy.